**Lesson Plan**

**Social Studies 9 ESL**

**Title: Crusades**

Content: The beginning of the crusades

Objectives:

Students will evaluate the different lexile levels in an effort to improve their own writing.

They will identify what makes each reading more advanced than the other.

They will identify transition phrases, verbs, words etc

After completing this activity, students will create a “Diamante Poem” using important words from the reading.

The Crusades 1

**In A.D. 1095, Pope Urban II called on devoted Christians of Europe to undertake a vital and sacred mission.** This was to take back the Holy Land in the East from the Muslims. Thousands of Christians answered Urban’s call. The following wars in the name of Christianity were called the Crusades. And their symbol was the True Cross. It was made of wood from the cross on which Christ was crucified.

The Holy Land consisted of what are now the nations of Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt, and Jordan. The region held great religious importance for Christians. But it was also said to hold great riches.

The Crusades 2

In A.D. 1095, Pope Urban II spoke to a large crowd outside the French town of Clermont. He urged them to take up arms and drive out the Muslim Turks who occupied the Holy Land, the Christian lands of the East. (Today these lands are the countries of Israel, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt.) The crowd promised to do so. This marked the beginning of the Crusades—wars in the name of Christianity. The True Cross, made of wood from the cross on which Christ was crucified, was the symbol of the Crusades. In the following years many groups of western Christians from France, Germany, Italy, and England set out for the East.

The Holy Land was once controlled by Christians. But then Muslims began their conquest of the East. By 1095 the Muslims held everything except the Christian Byzantine Empire. The Byzantine Empire was ruled by Emperor Alexius I, who was at war with the Muslim Turks and needed more troops. He appealed to Pope Urban to urge Christians in Western Europe to serve in his army.

Europeans wanted to make pilgrimages to the Holy Land to visit the places Jesus had been. But religion was not the only reason people went on the Crusades. Many people, having heard of the East's great wealth, hoped to make their fortunes there. And some, no doubt, went for the adventure.

The Crusades 3

One November day in the year 1095, a large crowd gathered on an open field outside the French town of Clermont. Nobles, knights, and many common people stood listening to the words of Pope [Urban II](http://expertspace.grolier.com/0299390-0), who spoke to them from a platform high above the gathering. Pope Urban urged the crowd to take up arms and drive out the "wicked race" of Turks who occupied the Holy Land, the Christian lands of the East. Moved by the pope's words, the crowd vowed to march to the East and battle the Muslims. Thus began the first of a long series of expeditions known as the Crusades—wars in the name of Christianity. The True Cross, made of wood from the cross on which Christ was crucified, was the symbol of the Crusades. In the following years many groups of western Christians from France, Germany, Italy, and England set out for the East. The lands for which the Crusaders fought are now the countries of Israel, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt.

At one time Christians had ruled all the Holy Land, but then the Muslims began their conquest of the East. By 1095 the Muslims held everything except the Christian [Byzantine Empire](http://expertspace.grolier.com/a2004130-h), ruled by Emperor [Alexius I](http://expertspace.grolier.com/0006890-0) at Constantinople. Alexius was at war with the Muslim Turks and needed more troops, so he appealed to Pope Urban to urge Christians in Western Europe to serve in his army.

Europeans were interested in making pilgrimages to the Holy Land to visit the places Jesus had been, but religion was not the only reason to go on the Crusades. Many people, having heard of the East's great wealth, hoped to make their fortunes there. And some, no doubt, went for the adventure.

Diamante Poem Template

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